
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: June 9, 2023

Contact: Patrick Ward, Staff Attorney

2023 Senate Bill 218

**Senate
Amendment 1**

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is required to administer and oversee the operation of current and future statewide public safety interoperable communication systems. These systems allow emergency responders from public safety agencies to communicate across jurisdictions. The current system, WISCOM, is in the process of being replaced with a system that will have fewer limitations. Local public safety agencies will have to upgrade their current systems to use the new statewide system for daily use and dispatch.

2023 SENATE BILL 218

2023 Senate Bill 218 creates a grant program for public safety interoperable communication system upgrades to be administered by the DMA. The department must establish guidelines for the grant program, including eligibility criteria consistent with statutory requirements. For the first four years of the program, DMA must award 70 percent of the grants to daily users of the statewide public safety interoperable communication system.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 clarifies the required eligibility criteria for grants awarded under the program. Specifically, for a local unit of government that is not currently a daily user but would like to be considered one for purposes of the grant program, the amendment requires that the local unit of government indicate in writing its intention to join the new statewide public safety interoperable communication system when that system becomes available. The bill requires all types of local units of government, including current daily users, to indicate their intention to join the new system. Also, the amendment specifies the type of radio eligible to be purchased with grant funding.

The amendment also specifies that, for the first four years of the program, 30 percent of the grants must be awarded to agencies or entities that are not daily users.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Marklein offered Senate Amendment 1 on May 8, 2023. On June 1, 2023, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

PAW:jal